

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -  
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules  
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202  
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,  
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,  
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative effects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented has become more limited, I believe, to the detriment of the overall quality of our media. I am particularly concerned that the FCC is considering repealing the regulations that currently prevent the same companies from owning both print and telecast media in a particular geographic area. I find the implication of ALL news for the people in an area coming from a single source alarming, and believe that a diversity of perspectives on issues are necessary to adequate citizen decision making.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition, I support the FCC's plan to hold a public hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA in February 2003. I strongly encourage the Commission to hold similar hearings in all parts of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from the public--which will, after all be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is especially important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest. I believe that access to information is a right, and I believe that the FCC needs to look beyond the financial issues in this case toward the detrimental effect on democracy if a handful of vast corporations control the nationwide media•a trend already in the making.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in

the process.

Thank you,